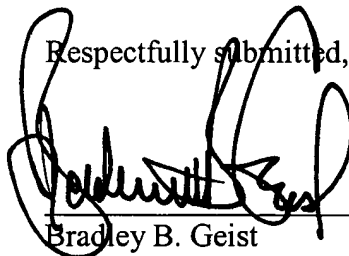


REMARKS

Applicants hereby elect Species III, Figure 5 (and Figure 9) with traverse, and without prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue claims directed to non-elected species that are patentably distinct in a divisional or continuation application. Applicants maintain that Claims 2-12 and 14-24 read on the elected species. However, Applicants believe that Species IV, Figure 6 (and Figure 10) are not patentably distinct from Species III, since both Species III and IV use the same algorithm for representing a vector descriptor, although Species III relates to encoding and Species IV relates to decoding. Further, both Species III and IV read on method claims 2-12 and the corresponding apparatus claims 14-24 in connection with Species III and IV.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request examination on the merits of pending claims 2-12 and 14-24.

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley B. Geist
Patent Office Reg. No. 27,551

Attorney for Applicant
(212) 408-2562

30-Rockefeller Center
New York, New York 10012